

Airborne Toxic Control Measure To Limit School Bus Idling and Idling at Schools

Motor Carrier Responsibilities

New Air Resources Board Regulation Governing Idling

On July 16, 2003 a new Airborne Toxic Control Measure (regulation) became effective in California. The regulation applies to diesel-, gasoline-, and alternative-fueled (except zero emission) school buses, school pupil activity buses, youth buses, general public paratransit vehicles when transporting children at or below the 12th grade level to or from public or private school or school activities. The regulation also applies to transit buses, and other commercial motor vehicles (e.g. food and supply delivery trucks, garbage trucks, and construction-maintenance vehicles). Private passenger vehicles are not subject to the regulation. The purpose of this regulation is to reduce public exposure, especially school age children's exposure, to diesel exhaust particulate matter and other toxic air contaminants by limiting unnecessary idling of specified vehicles. It is part of the Air Resources Board's ongoing effort to reduce exposure to toxic air contaminants and to protect children's health.

What is a Motor Carrier?

"Motor Carrier" means the registered owner, lessee, licensee, school district superintendent, or bailee of any school bus, transit bus, school pupil activity bus, youth bus, general public paratransit vehicle, or other commercial motor vehicle who operates or directs the operation of any such bus or vehicle on either a for-hire or not for-hire basis.

Motor Carrier Responsibilities

The regulation requires the motor carrier to ensure that:

1. the bus or vehicle driver, upon employment and at least once per year thereafter, is informed of the requirements and consequences of the regulation and the motor carrier's terms of employment, of not complying with those requirements;
2. all complaints of non-compliance with, and enforcement actions related to, the requirements of the regulation are reviewed and remedial action is taken as necessary; and
3. records are kept for at least three years and made available or accessible to enforcement personnel within three business days of their request.

Requirements

The regulation requires a driver of a **school bus**, **school pupil activity bus**, **youth bus** or **general public paratransit vehicle** to:

1. turn off the bus or vehicle engine upon stopping at a school or within 100 feet of a school, and not restart the bus or vehicle more than 30 seconds before departing from the school or from within 100 feet of a school; and
2. not cause or allow a bus or vehicle to idle at any location greater than 100 feet from a school for:
 - a) more than five consecutive minutes; or
 - b) a period or periods aggregating more than five minutes in any one hour

The regulation requires a driver of a **transit bus**, or **commercial motor vehicle** to:

1. turn off the bus or vehicle engine upon stopping at a school and must not turn the bus or vehicle engine on more than 30 seconds before beginning to depart from a school; and
2. not cause or allow a bus or vehicle to idle at any location within 100 feet of, but not at, a school for:
 - a) more than five consecutive minutes; or
 - b) a period or periods aggregating more than five minutes in any one hour



Enforcement Division

Advisory

SCHOOL BUS IDLING

Number 318

July 22, 2003

LIMIT SCHOOL BUS IDLING AND IDLING AT SCHOOLS

The purpose of this advisory is to inform you that the California Air Resources Board (ARB) has established a statewide regulation to limit school bus idling and idling at schools, effective August 1, 2003. The following information will enable you to comply with the idling regulation and report violations.

School bus drivers and other drivers of pupils must turn off their engine upon arriving at or within 100 feet of a school, and restart the engine no more than 30 seconds before departing. Pupils' drivers also must not idle at any location beyond 100 feet of a school for more than 5 minutes.

Transit and delivery vehicle drivers must turn off their engine upon arriving at a school, and restart the engine no more than 30 seconds before departing. Transit and delivery vehicle drivers must not idle the engine at any location within 100 feet of a school for more than 5 minutes.

Motor carriers are required to educate drivers of the regulation and retain records of the education, complaints of non-compliance, enforcement actions, and remedies for at least three years and make these records available to enforcement personnel.

Any driver that does not comply with the regulation is subject to penalties under the Health and Safety or Vehicle Codes. While Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) violations are generally subject to maximum fines of \$10,000 per day penalties, the ARB expects this ATCM to be enforced on a scale similar to other traffic violations.

Some exemptions to this regulation include: idling while in the midst of traffic, to ascertain safe operating conditions of the bus or vehicle, for testing, service, repair, or diagnostic purposes, or to operate equipment needed by persons with disabilities and climate control devices for children with exceptional needs.

Should you have questions about the regulation or exemptions, require a copy of the regulation, or would like to report a violation, please contact ARB's Public Information Office at 1-800-END-SMOG. You may also view program information, the regulation, or to report a violation at www.arb.ca.gov/enf.enf.htm.

Please contact the ARB's Public Information Office at (916) 322-2990, or ARB's web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/sbidling/sbidling.htm>. You may obtain this document in an alternative format by contacting ARB's ADA Coordinator at (916) 323-4916 (voice); (916) 324-9531 (TDD, Sacramento area only); or (800) 700-8326 (TDD, outside Sacramento).